



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Doug Ellis
(360) 664-2735
Toll free 1-877-601-2828

LOCAL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, found 89 elected and 13 appointed officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Tuesday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15th reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Yorozu said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public’s interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two warning letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 6, 2002 and letter with an opportunity to pay a \$50 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 21, 2002.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

Government officials from Eastern Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing are:

John Ely , City Council Member, City of Millwood	\$150 Penalty
Larry Haskell , City Council Member, City of Airway Heights	\$150 Penalty
Cindy Adams , School Director, Loon Lake SD	\$300 Penalty
David Niezwaag , Park & Recreation Commissioner, Ritzville	\$350 Penalty
Malcolm Townsend , School Director, Columbia SD	\$150 Penalty
Don Hillis , Port Commissioner, Port of Clarkston	\$150 Penalty
Dora Reyes , College Board Member, Walla Walla Community College	\$150 Penalty
Richard Peone , School Director, Mary Walker SD	\$150 Penalty

On Tuesday, Yorozu also levied civil penalties to three lobbyist employers for failure to file annual employer reports due February 28, 2002. Laidlaw Transit, SBC Telecom Inc., and the Washington State Association of Independent Outpatient Programs were each fined \$500.

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